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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

PUBLIC HEARING

4

COMMITTEE ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT

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Room 696, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, May 1, 2003
9:57 a.m.

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11 RESOLUTION 030082 - Resolution authorizing the City
12 Council Committee on Law and Government to hold
13 hearings to investigate the state of the air quality
14 in Philadelphia and to recommend ways and means to
15 improve its air quality, and therefore, the health
16 of all Philadelphians.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN, Chair
COUNCILMAN ANGEL ORTIZ
18 COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
19 COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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1 05/01/03 - LAW & GOVERNMENT - RES. 030082

2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The Committee on Law
3 and Government is now in Session. A quorum being
4 present, the Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz for a
5 motion with respect to the clean air resolution that
6 is on the docket before City Council.

7 You will all remember Council passed a
8 resolution to investigate and issue a report prior
9 to the May 2nd deadline set by the EPA for fair
10 comment on proposed changes to the clean air
11 regulation in Washington. Therefore, the Committee
12 has dutifully prepared a report. It was circulated
13 two days ago to all Members of the Committee, and
14 yesterday to all Councilmembers. It's a very fine
15 report.

16 The Chair now recognizes Councilman
17 Ortiz for the purpose of the motion.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Chairman, I move
19 that the report on Resolution 030082 be reported out
20 of the committee with favorable recommendation.

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Second.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: That report generally
23 is in opposition to the proposed changes by the
24 current Administration in Washington with respect to
25 current requirements that are required. It

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2 substitutes a whole series of voluntary proposals.

3 The problems the report notes is that
4 Philadelphia suffers from a severe ozone
5 nonattainment rating and has one of the worst
6 records in the nation. It used to be the leader in
7 the country. It's now far behind because of the
8 heavy level of ozone and particulate matter, as a
9 result of which, many thousands of Philadelphians
10 suffer from asthma. And that represents a No. 1
11 medical problem in Philadelphia. The proposed
12 regulations would further remove restrictions and
13 substitute voluntary compliance. And as a previous
14 changes to voluntary compliance, the air has gotten
15 much worse in Philadelphia and throughout the
16 nation.

17 There were many witnesses that appeared
18 before the Committee, including the director of the
19 environment, Morris Fine on behalf of the
20 Administration. All were in agreement, including
21 the American Lung Association, that if health
22 matters and other matters were to be dealt with
23 appropriately, the clean air regulations had to be
24 strengthened and not weakened. And that's the
25 recommendation of the report.

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2 We have to act on it today because
3 tomorrow is the deadline for the receipt of fair
4 comment by EPA.

5 Is there any other discussion on this
6 motion?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: If not, all those in
9 favor will please say aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Any opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The ayes have it, and
14 report will be submitted to the meeting at City
15 Council for final approval this morning. Thank you
16 very much.

17 (Council adjourned at 10:00 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of May 1, 2003, were reported fully and
accurately by me, and that this is a correct
transcript of the same.

RE: COMMITTEE ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT

Lisa C. Bradley, RPR
and Notary Public